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AUTHOR Henig, Jeffrey R.; Hula, Richard C.; Orr, Marion; Pedescleaux, Desiree S.
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ABSTRACT

This study traced the relationships among demographic change, political change, and education in: Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Detroit, Michigan; and the District of Columbia. Although each city is different and has experienced periods of enthusiasms for school reform, all four cities are dealing with objective indicators of educational failure, such as high dropout rates, poor performance on standardized tests, and employer dissatisfaction with graduates' basic skills. The analysis focuses on the role of race and its importance in fostering broad civic involvement. The chapters are: (1) "Civic Capacity, Race, and Education in Black-Led Cities"; (2) "Racial Change and the Politics of Transition"; (3) "The Elusiveness of Education Reform"; (4) "Race and the Political Economy of Big-City Schools: Teachers and Preachers"; (5) "Parental and Community Participation in Education Reform"; (6) "Black Leaders, White Businesses: Racial Tensions and the Construction of Public-Private Partnerships in Education"; (7) "The Role of External Actors"; and (8) "School Reform as If Politics and Race Matter." (Contains 14 figures and 15 tables.) (SLD)

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